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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We sing praises to You, sustainer of the universe, for the Earth belongs to You. You have set Your glory above the heavens, and Your throne shall endure forever.

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness and for Your loving providence. You have dealt bountifully with us, and we rejoice because of Your manifold blessings.

Preserve this land we love, as we lean upon Your everlasting arms. Heal our land of the disease of division and deliver us from wickedness. Instruct our Senators today as they grapple with complex issues. May they strive to glorify You with each decision. May the spirit of civility prevail as they guard their speech.

Sustain us with Your right hand until the darkness lifts and the shadows flee.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today there will be 60 minutes for morning

business prior to resuming consideration of S. 1689, the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental request. There are a number of amendments that are pending, and we hope to dispose of those over the course of the day and as many as possible this morning.

The ranking member and the manager, Chairman STEVENS, are here and will be reviewing the amendments. It is our expectation that rollcall votes will be held as necessary on these amendments and those other amendments that will be offered over the course of the day.

Last night we made progress and we were able to lock in an amendment list, although that list is much longer than any of us would like to see. I am told many of the amendments on that list will not be offered.

Having said that, we will press on and we will remain as late as necessary with the understanding that we will complete the bill by the end of business this week. I have repeatedly said that goal must be met. It is an urgent supplemental request and the sooner the better in terms of passage of this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we started on our side last night with 90 amendments. We are down to 31 now. I am not sure all of those will be offered, but I think the end is in sight. If we work hard today and put in a fairly decent day tomorrow, we will be able to finish this bill. I know the Presiding Officer, the President pro tempore of the Senate, has worked hard and was able, with his wisdom, to get rid of a number of reporting amendments that took a lot of pressure off of everybody. Those will be taken to conference and the decision will be made as to what will be done rather than having 70 different re-

porting amendments on relatively the same subject. I think we have the opportunity to finish this most important bill in the next day or two.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to make just a few comments on the progress that has been made—and it has been real progress over the last 2½ weeks—on the emergency request for Iraq and Afghanistan.

While we will have much more debate over the course of the day and likely tomorrow morning, and discussion on the amendments, I predict this bill will pass with very strong bipartisan support either late tonight or tomorrow. There has been a general understanding in this body that, indeed, we are at war against terrorists in Afghanistan and Iraq and the assistance we are debating—the urgent supplemental request—is absolutely vital and integral to victory and to the safe return of our soldiers.

Replacing the defeated regime of Saddam Hussein with a democratic Iraq is an essential turning point in bringing freedom to a part of the world that has been governed by extremism and by terrorism now for decades.

As General John Abizaid said before the Armed Services Committee, our service men and women are very clear when asked about their commitment to victory in Iraq. He said: "We can fight them there or we can fight them here."

What we are doing now very directly affects the security of the American people.

Iraq is a country, as we all know, that is deeply in debt because of Saddam Hussein's many excesses in over more than 20 years. In order to help Iraq, we must absolutely bring a basic level of stability to that country. Although we will discuss it over the course of the day, I believe strongly that loans will not do it. Loans do not

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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